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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U.S.D.A.

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## Another Big Harvest Indicated

Crop prospects as of July 1 are second best in history. Overall production may be nearly a third above the '23-32 average. Would be exceeded only by last year's record.

## Big Acreage for Harvest

Acreage for harvest this year (for 52 principal crops) about 353 million...largest total since '32. Tops wartime peak in '44 by 700,000 acres...exceeds last year's total by nearly  $2\frac{1}{2}$  million acres.

## Wheat Prospects Fall Somewhat

All wheat production is now indicated the third largest of record instead of second largest as indicated a month ago. Indicated production July 1, was 1,189 million bushels--down 148 million bushels from the June estimate. Production in '48 was nearly 1.3 billion; 10-year average, less than a billion (991.9 million). Winter wheat is indicated at 932 million bushels; spring, 256.6 million bushels.

## Big Corn Crop Forecast

The corn crop, estimated at 3.5 billion bushels, is expected to be exceeded only by last year's all-time high of 3.7 billion bushels. 10-year average has been 2.8 billion. Crop has reached 3 billion bushels only in '42, '44, '46 and '48. Yield per acre indicated at 41.2 bushels compares with last year's record yield of 42.7 and the average of 31.4. Acreage for harvest, 85.8 million; harvested last year, 85.4 million acres; average, 88.6 million.

## Better Than Average Oat Crop

Oats, at 1,380 million bushels, will be a little less than last year's crop of 1,492 million bushels but will be 12 percent above average. Record was 1,536 million in '45. Expected yield of 34 bushels per acre compares with 37 bushels last year and about 32 bushels average. Acreage for harvest 40.6 million, slightly above last year's acreage.

## Small Barley Crop

Smallest barley crop since '37 is indicated. The 244.1 million bushels expected compares with 317 million last year and the average 304.7 million bushels. Acreage seeded is 14 percent below a year earlier, and down from average by 22 percent. Expected per-acre yield, 24.4 bushels is a little above average but down from last year by 1.9 bushels.

## Rye Crop Also Small

Rye crop, estimated at 19.7 million bushels is about a fourth less than last year's crop, and is only a little more than half the 10-year average crop of 35.1 million bushels. Yield per acre--12.4 bushels--is nearly as good as last year but acreage is off about a fourth. Acreage for harvest 1.6 million; last year 2 million; 10-year average, 2.9 million acres.

## Record Rice Crop

An 86-million bushel rice crop is expected...largest in history, 6 percent above last year's big crop and 37 percent larger than 10-year average. Acreage seeded, 1.8 million, about same as last year and compares with 1.4 million acres for the 10-year average. Acreage has increased steadily past 4 years.

## Soybean Acreage Down

Soybean acreage is smaller than usual. The 11.1 million acres planted (alone and for all purposes) is the lowest since the prewar crop of '41. Acreage is down 6 percent from last year and is about 5 percent less than the '38-41 average.

Acreage for harvest as beans, based on grower's July 1 intentions, probably will be about 9.7 million acres, compared with 10.3 million harvested last year and 8 million acres for the 10-year average. Production forecast will not be made until August.

## Fewer Peanuts Planted

Acreage in peanuts is estimated at 3.1 million acres...about 20 percent below last year and 9 percent below average. Reductions from last year: 17 percent in Virginia-Carolinas; 18 per-

cent in Southeast; 24 percent in Southwest. Official forecast in August.

## Dry Beans, Third Largest on Record

Dry edible beans production, at 19.1 million bags, is expected to be the third largest crop on record. The crop is expected to be only 9 percent less than the record crop of '43 and 8 percent below last year's crop.

## Small Crop of Dry Peas Seen

Dry peas, forecast at 3.1 million bags, will be about 13 percent less than last year's production and 45 percent below 10-year average. Crop may be smallest since '40, but would be larger than in most prewar years. Acreage for harvest, 378 thousand, 30 percent more than last year but well under 10-year average of 442 thousand acres.

## Flaxseed Crop Above Average, But Below Last Year

A flaxseed crop of 45.6 million bushels is indicated. This compares with 52.5 million last year and 30.1 million 10-year average. Lower yields than last year in most major flax producing States. Expected yield of 9.7 bushels per acre is about 1.4 bushels per acre less than last year's yield.

## Flax and Hemp for Fiber

Harvested acreage of flax for fiber in Oregon this year is expected to be about 3,000 acres, compared with about 2,000 acres in '48. Dry weather has caused considerable concern about the growth of the fiber straw.

Hemp planted for fiber in Wisconsin is reported at 4,500 acres, up 1,500 acres from last year. Acreage for harvest will be about 4,200 acres compared with 2,800 acres last year. Hemp for seed in Kentucky is reported at 200 acres, only about half the '48 acreage.

## Bumper Feed Grain Supplies

Supplies of feed grains--with the heavy carryover stocks--will be among the most liberal ever available per animal unit. Feed grains, as a group, play the biggest part in the expected near-record aggregate production. Included are the second largest corn crop, a large crop of oats, a relatively small barley crop and a better than average sorghum grain crop.

## Grain Stocks on Farms, July 1

Corn on farms July 1--1,239 million bushels; year ago, 423 million; July 1 average, 708 million bushels.

Oats on farms--270.3 million bushels; year ago, 169.7 million; July 1 average, 210.6 million bushels.

COMMODITY AND UNIT	PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED		
	ACTUAL PRICE	PARITY PRICE	
	May 15 1949	June 15 1949	June 15 1949
Wheat, bu.	dol.	2.00	1.86
Corn, bu.	dol.	1.22	1.21
Peanuts, lb.	ct.	10.6	10.4
Cotton, lb.	ct.	29.97	30.13
Potatoes, bu.	dol.	1.81	1.75
Hogs, 100 lb.	dol.	17.90	18.80
Beef cattle, 100 lb.	dol.	20.90	20.90
Veal calves, 100 lb.	dol.	23.80	23.40
Lambs, 100 lb.	dol.	25.30	24.40
Butterfat, lb.	ct.	1/ 64.0	1/ 64.7
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb.	dol.	1/2 4.01	1/ 3.99
Chickens, live, lb.	ct.	28.2	26.1
Eggs, doz.	ct.	1/ 50.5	1/ 50.1

1/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

2/ Revised.

Wheat on farms--old crop--65.6 million bushels; last year, 94.5 million; July 1 average, 93.9 million bushels.

Soybeans on farms--9.4 million bushels; last year, 4.3 million; average, 9 million bushels.

Rye on farms--3.3 million bushels; last year, 1.7 million; average, 7.5 million bushels.

Barley on farms--59.3 million bushels; last year, 26.9 million; average, 52.2 million bushels.

#### Plenty of Hay

Hay supplies per animal unit will be adequate, though not quite so abundant as last year. Estimated production is 97.7 million tons compared with 98.8 millions last year and 99.5 million average. Addition of some 15 million tons of old hay brings this year's total supply to 113 million tons.

Farm pastures on July 1 were furnishing about average feed for livestock. U. S. condition of pastures, 85 percent of normal compared with 82 a year ago and '38-47 average of 86.

#### Food Grains Plentiful, But Below Last Year

Food grains are considerably below last year's level...with the wheat crop reduced to third-largest, rye production dropping below 20 million bushels, and buckwheat planted on a relatively small acreage. But the 86-million bushel rice crop sets a new record.

#### Truck Tonnage Off From Last Summer

Truck crop tonnage will be down a little this summer, despite increase in acreage. Total--excluding summer cantaloups and onions which have not been estimated--is placed at 2,476,000 tons. This compares with 2,510,900 tons last year and 2,389,800 tons for the 10-year average. Reductions from last year are especially pronounced for green peas, Honey Dew melons, egg-plant, carrots, and celery, ranging from 17 percent for celery to 31 percent for green peas. Most other crops are expected to be from 1 to 12 percent smaller than a year ago. Exceptions are lettuce, watermelons, and early summer onions, for which larger crops than last year are indicated, and lima beans, which show no change.

#### Potatoes, Near Average Crop on Small Acreage

High per-acre yield of potatoes is indicated, although harvested acreage is expected to be below 1.9 million acres for the first time in 70 years. The 1.89 million acres is 10 percent smaller than in '48 and 30 percent below average. A crop of 368.7 million bushels is now indicated. This would be 17 percent smaller than last year's large crop of 445.8 million bushels and 6 percent below the '38-47 average. Yield expected, 194 bushels per acre, compares with last year's record of 212.

#### More Sweetpotatoes Than Last Year

Sweetpotatoes will exceed last year's small outturn, but crop will be about one-fifth below average. Prospects are for 51.9 million bushels; 49.8 million last year and 63.6 million average. Acreage is 26 percent below average.

#### Better Fruit Prospects

Fruit prospects improved last month. Deciduous fruits output now indicated up from last year by 14 percent; up from average by 8 percent. Apples, peaches, pears, cherries and plums are each above last year and above average.

#### New-Crop Citrus Favorable

Prospects are favorable for citrus ('49-50 season) in the important citrus States, Florida and California. Production short in Texas, only fair in Arizona.

#### Tobacco Production Up a Little

2,025 million pounds of tobacco now indicated. This is up a little from last year's 1,982 million pounds. Increase is in flue-cured. This class is now estimated at 1,155 million pounds compared with 1,090 million pounds last year. Total acreage, all tobacco, 1,625,900; 1,554,600 acres harvested last year. Flue-cured acres total 941,800 compared with 883,800 acres grown last year.

#### Big Acreage in Cotton

Present acreage in cotton is up 14 percent from last year and is the largest in 12 years. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 25.9 million; acreage last year, 22.8; average, 21.4 million acres. Record high acreages in California, Arizona and New Mexico, where cotton production has expanded considerably past 3 years...Acreage is up from last year 50 percent in New Mexico, 34 percent in Arizona, and 19 percent in California. Texas acreage is up 18 percent from last year and 31 percent above the 10-year average. Georgia acreage is up from last year 14 percent; North Carolina, Louisiana, and Oklahoma, 12 percent; Mississippi, 10 percent; Alabama and Arkansas, 9 percent.

#### Milk per Cow High, Total Produced Low

Milk per cow July 1 was highest of record for the date. But total milk produced in June was only 1 percent more than in June last year and except for June '48, it was lowest in 8 years. Milk production per capita in June averaged only 2.75 pounds per day, lowest for month in 20 years. Production first 6 months this year totaled 60.9 billion pounds compared with 59.4 billion for last year and 59.6 billion average for the January-June period.

Farmers' prices for milk and milk products will tend to increase balance of the year, because total milk output has passed the peak for '49 and will decline seasonally.

#### Little Change From Last Year in Egg Totals

The 4.9 billion eggs laid in June totaled only 2 percent less than last year and were 4 percent more than average. Increase over last year was 5 percent in Western States, 1 percent in South Atlantic States; down in other regions. Total production, January through June, 32.4 billion eggs; 32.3 billion same period last year; 29.8 billion average for January-June.

#### More Young Chickens Than Last Year Little Change in Number of Layers

Chicks and young chickens of this year's hatching on farms July 1 totaled about 550.6 million--up 12 percent from year ago but down 5 percent from average. Layer numbers--about 305.8 million in June--are nearly the same as last year, also near average.

#### Poultry Ration Down One-Fourth

Poultry feed, mid-June, at \$3.43 per 100 pounds, was down 25 percent from last year's record June price of \$4.59. Liveweight chickens brought 26.1 pound, down 4.4 cents from June price last year.

#### Prices Received Decline; Prices Paid, Steady

Prices received by farmers dropped nearly 2 percent from May to June, led by declines in prices of truck crops and food grains. On the other hand, prices paid by farmers, including interest and taxes, held steady during the same period. Prices Received index at 252 is down 55 index points from record high of 307 reached in January '48, while prices paid index at 245 is down only 6 index points from the record high of 251.

#### Industry Slows, Some Activities Strong

Economic activity tended downward in May and June. Industrial output has declined about 3 percent a month since February. But consumer's incomes--supported by unemployment insurance--have declined less than half as much as industrial production. And some activities continue strong. Spendings for new construction first 5 months of '49 were up 3 percent from year earlier...partly due to increased public construction. Exports, first quarter, also kept close to last year's level.

#### Employment Up Nearly a Million Since May

Total U. S. civilian employment in June (Census) was 59.6 million, up nine-tenths of a million from the previous month when the total was 58.7 million. Employment in June a year ago had reached near record at 61.3 million civilian workers. 3.8 million were unemployed in June compared with 2.2 million same month last year.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE		
INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	June 1949
Prices received by farmers .....	1910-14= 100	252
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes .....	1910-14= 100	245
Parity ratio .....	1910-14= 100	103
Wholesale prices of food .....	1910-14= 100	248
Retail prices of food .....	1910-14= 100	1/ 261
Farm wage rates .....	1910-14= 100	2/ 425
Weekly factory earnings .....	1910-14= 100	1/ 476
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS		
	Jan.-June 1948	Jan.-June 1949
Milk, (Bil. lb.) .....	59.4	60.9
Eggs, (Bil.) .....	32.3	32.4
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) .....	3/ 2568	3/ 2862
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) .....	3/ 261	3/ 211
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.) .....	3/ 3459	3/ 3768
All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) .....	3/ 6807	3/ 7399

1/ 1/ May figure. 2/ July figure. Adjusted for seasonal variation.  
3/ January-May.